

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1-35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): A method for preventing cell damage, comprising:

administering to a patient at risk for cell damage a composition comprising a substantially pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition, wherein said substantially pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition is [less toxic than a corresponding non-pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition] substantially free of unsaturated molecules, said substantially pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition containing block copolymers with each of the block copolymers having the following general formula:



wherein a is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the respective block copolymer is between 900 Daltons and 15,000 Daltons and b is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the respective block copolymer constitutes between 5% and 95% of the respective block copolymer and the polydispersity value is less than approximately 1.07; and

~~wherein the block copolymers prevent cell damage by restoring or maintaining non-adhesive cell surfaces~~

whereby cell damage is prevented by the restoration or maintenance of non-adhesive cell surfaces by the block copolymers.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of Claim 36 wherein the average total molecular weight of said substantially pure block copolymer composition is between 7,500 and 9,500 Daltons and a is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the

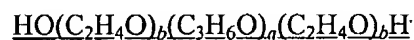
polyoxypropylene portion of the respective block copolymer is between 1,400 Daltons and 2,100 Daltons and b is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the respective block copolymer constitutes between 70% and 90% of the respective block copolymer.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A method for preventing cell damage, comprising:

administering to a patient at risk for cell damage a composition comprising a substantially pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition, wherein said substantially pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition is prepared by

(a) providing a non-purified polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition prepared by first polymerizing propylene oxide and thereafter copolymerizing ethylene oxide therewith which results in the formation of at least

(1) block copolymers with each of the block copolymers having the following general formula:

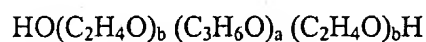


wherein a is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the respective block copolymer is between 900 daltons and 15,000 daltons and b is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion constitutes between 5% and 95% of the respective block copolymer, and

(2) at least one impurity resulting from the manufacture of the non-purified block copolymer composition, wherein at least one impurity contains unsaturation; and

(b) substantially removing the at least one impurity from the non-purified block copolymer composition resulting in said substantially pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition which thereby has the property of having less unsaturation than the non-purified copolymer composition from which said substantially pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition is derived,

[has less unsaturation than a corresponding non-pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition], said substantially pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition containing block copolymers with each of the block copolymers having the following general formula:



wherein a is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the respective block copolymer is between 900 Daltons and 15,000 Daltons and b is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the respective block copolymer constitutes between 5% and 95% of the respective block copolymer and the polydispersity value is less than approximately 1.07; and

whereby cell damage is prevented by the restoration or maintenance of non-adhesive cell surfaces by the block copolymers.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method of Claim 38 wherein the average total molecular weight of said substantially pure block copolymer composition is between 7,500 and 9,500 Daltons and a is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the respective block copolymer is between 1,400 Daltons and 2,100 Daltons and b is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the respective block copolymer constitutes between 70% and 90% of the respective block copolymer.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The method Claim 36 wherein the cell damage is associated with tissue cells, myocardial cells, organ tissue cells, red blood cells, or nervous system cells.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~37~~ 38 wherein the cell damage is associated with tissue cells, myocardial cells, organ tissue cells, red blood cells, or nervous system cells.

polyoxypropylene portion of the respective block copolymer is between 1,400 Daltons and 2,100 Daltons and b is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the respective block copolymer constitutes between 70% and 90% of the respective block copolymer.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A method for preventing cell damage, comprising:

administering to a patient at risk for cell damage a composition comprising a substantially pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition, wherein said substantially pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition is prepared by

(a) providing a non-purified polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition prepared by first polymerizing propylene oxide and thereafter copolymerizing ethylene oxide therewith which results in the formation of at least

(1) block copolymers with each of the block copolymers having the following general formula:



wherein a is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the respective block copolymer is between 900 daltons and 15,000 daltons and b is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion constitutes between 5% and 95% of the respective block copolymer, and

(2) at least one impurity resulting from the manufacture of the non-purified block copolymer composition, wherein at least one impurity contains unsaturation; and

(b) substantially removing the at least one impurity from the non-purified block copolymer composition resulting in said substantially pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition which thereby has the property of having less unsaturation than the non-purified copolymer composition from which said substantially pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition is derived,

[has less unsaturation than a corresponding non-pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition], said substantially pure polyoxypropylene/polyoxyethylene block copolymer composition containing block copolymers with each of the block copolymers having the following general formula:



wherein a is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the respective block copolymer is between 900 Daltons and 15,000 Daltons and b is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the respective block copolymer constitutes between 5% and 95% of the respective block copolymer and the polydispersity value is less than approximately 1.07; and

whereby cell damage is prevented by the restoration or maintenance of non-adhesive cell surfaces by the block copolymers.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method of Claim 38 wherein the average total molecular weight of said substantially pure block copolymer composition is between 7,500 and 9,500 Daltons and a is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxypropylene portion of the respective block copolymer is between 1,400 Daltons and 2,100 Daltons and b is an integer such that the molecular weight represented by the polyoxyethylene portion of the respective block copolymer constitutes between 70% and 90% of the respective block copolymer.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The method Claim 36 wherein the cell damage is associated with tissue cells, myocardial cells, organ tissue cells, red blood cells, or nervous system cells.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The method of Claim 37 38 wherein the cell damage is associated with tissue cells, myocardial cells, organ tissue cells, red blood cells, or nervous system cells.